

The Library Assistant:

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

Editorials...	254
Your Affairs	258
The Easter Excursion	264
The Divisions.								
North-Eastern	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	266
North-Western	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	266
Yorkshire	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	267
South Coast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	268
Our Association, Our Libraries, Ourselves.	By Horace Goulden.							270

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 23rd, at 7.30 p.m., at the Central Public Library, Walworth Road, Southwark, S.E.17, by kind permission of Mr. R. Mould, the Borough Librarian. It is hoped that Mr. Mould will preside. A paper will be read by **Mr. Ralph Wright**, of Wandsworth, on "**The Need for a Public Library Philosophy.**"

The Junior Section will meet at 7 p.m.

Miss L. Johnson, of Fulham, will read a paper on "The Desirability of Forming Special Collections."

The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 20th, at the Shoreditch Central Library, when the President elect will give his Presidential Address.

The Reading Conference.—Owing to the disappointing response, the Council regrets to announce that the proposed Whitsuntide Conference at Reading will not take place.

Officers and Council.—Nominations for Officers and Council for 1923-1924 are invited, and should reach the Honorary Secretary, Public Library, Bancroft Road, Mile End, E.1, not later than Tuesday, 15th May.

The officers to be elected are: President (who must be a London member), Vice-President (who must be a Provincial member), Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Editor, and Honorary Secretary.

Nominations for the Council are required for ten London members and for five Provincial members. It should be noted that the London area now embraces all districts within a fifteen miles radius from Charing Cross.

Next Council Meeting.—The next meeting of the Council will be held at the National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton Street, S.W.1, on Wednesday, 16th May, at 3 p.m.

EDITORIALS.

Sequels.—Mr. Aldred has just received from New Zealand a draft for one guinea "for value received," which is to be credited to the Association's Benevolent Fund. With the draft was a letter speaking in the highest possible terms of the value of "Sequel Stories" to the writer, who is a bookseller. He says that he has "just obtained from London your splendid list of 'Sequel Stories,' and must confess to being amazed at its scope." After explaining the tests to which he has subjected it, he concludes by writing: "I see the proceeds are for a good cause; let me then have the pleasure of sending through you a little assistance thereto." We take this opportunity of thanking the donor for his welcome gift and for his appreciation of the work. May we at the same time remind our readers that "Sequel Stories" is still obtainable, and that the price is six shillings.

The Examination Season.—By the time this number appears, the Library Association's Examinations will be very near, and we therefore take this opportunity of wishing candidates the measure of success which the conscientious pursuit of their studies leads them to expect. May we impress upon them the importance of reading very carefully the instructions to candidates, and especially of answering only the number of questions specified on the Examination papers. Some candidates seem to think it will stand them in good stead if they attempt every question on the paper, whereas in point of fact they run a grave risk of being disqualified altogether. Compulsory questions should be particularly noted, and the whole of them cleared off before any others are attempted. Examples should be given freely, and if possible others than those given in the textbooks. So many answers are couched in purely textbook language and illustrated with textbook examples that it is perfectly refreshing when an examiner strikes a paper that possesses any marked degree of originality.

Public Lectures.—Students of bibliography, and others, may be interested to know that Mr. R. F. Green will deliver a public lecture on "The practice of extra illustration" at University College, London, on Wednesday, 16th May, at 5.30 p.m. Admission is free without ticket, and our readers will be welcomed.

The Summer School.—As holiday sheets are already in the air, may we again remind our readers of the Summer School of Librarianship which will be held from the 9th to the 21st of July, at University College, London. Full particulars were circulated with our February number, and a very interesting programme seems to be assured. As this will be the only Summer School in England this year, we commend it to our readers, especially to provincial colleagues who might care to spend a part of their holiday in London.

New Representatives.—At the last Council meeting Mr. W. H. Parker was appointed to succeed Mr. Stewart as the Association's representative on the N.A.L.G.O. Council, and Mr. H. A. Sharp was appointed to succeed him as its representative on the Education Committee of the Library Association.

A New Examination Regulation.—On the recommendation of the Education Committee, the Council of the Library Association has resolved that, commencing with the December Examinations, the usual essays which are prepared beforehand shall not be required, but essay questions will be set in the actual examination papers instead. This is a very important alteration to the regulations, and one which, we believe, will find very general favour. It does not mean that the standard of the Examination will be in any way lowered. On the contrary, there is a tendency to raise the standard still higher, beginning with the entrance examinations and continuing right up to the granting of the full Diploma.

The Carnegie U.K. Trust Enquiry.—A good deal of interest and curiosity has been occasioned by the elaborate questionnaire recently sent out to librarians by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. Whatever may be the real reasons that have prompted the enquiry, we are grateful to the Trustees for having undertaken it. The information, when properly tabulated, will be of the greatest possible value; from it we shall be able to deduce much better than we have been able to deduce hitherto, the real position occupied by the library service in the educational and intellectual life of the State. We believe that, on the whole, this position will be one of which we shall have reason to be proud, and we look forward to the publication of the information.

Publicity.—A correspondent of *The Librarian*, referring to our Islington meeting when a paper was read on Publicity methods, says that "given plenty of money and an efficient and ample staff, our libraries would become models of efficiency and perfection. Until then one would rather not have publicity." We are sorry, but really, if we are going to wait until we get all that we want in the way of staffs and money we never shall indulge in publicity. Our own experience is that by educating public opinion by reasonable publicity methods, the money, and with the money the staffs, will soon be forthcoming.

The Library Association Conference.—May we remind readers that the Library Association will hold its annual meeting at Eastbourne from the 17th to the 21st of September. In view of the proximity of the meeting place to London, we hope that many of our own members will make a special endeavour to attend the business meeting and some of the ordinary sessions. Those who are taking late holidays might do worse than spend them at Eastbourne, and avail themselves of the Conference at the same time.

Those Letters.—We notice that "Alpha " and " Beta " have joined the distinguished roll of correspondents to *The Library World's* " Letters on Our Affairs," and are sorry to gather that " Beta's " health is in so unsatisfactory a condition, and can only hope that with the brighter weather and the approach of holidays it will improve. We are sure he is unwell, because his letter in the April number is so very pessimistic in its tone. He is particularly worried lest the Fellowship of the Library Association shall " fade away and gradually die," because with the advent of the new educational requirements " only a very small percentage of junior assistants in municipal libraries will be eligible to sit for the examinations," and though he hopes for better things in the future, " the immediate result will be that the greater number of junior assistants will be debarred from obtaining the sectional certificates." For our own part, we are not in the least concerned. In the past the Fellowship of the Association has been given away far too freely, and we have had the ridiculous but tragic position of people being awarded certificates in the technique of librarianship—and even Fellowships—whose general education was sadly lacking. We do not say this in any critical spirit, for most of us were hewn from the same rock, *but*, as we look back over our experience we cannot help thinking that we should be grateful now if *we* had been compelled to matriculate before taking the sectional examinations. A good general education will not be amiss in any walk of life, and it is time enough to qualify on the technical side of our work—at least on paper—when we have got this, and not, as is now so often the case, afterwards.

Athletics.—The annual inter-departmental walk of the Bethnal Green Branch of the N.A.L.G.O. was held at High Beech on April 3rd. The Public Libraries' team [Messrs. T. W. Muskett (capt.), P. Meacham and P. Jerrard] won the cup by obtaining the lowest number of points, finishing fourth, first and eleventh respectively. The Borough Surveyor's Department was placed second with 19 points.

Greenwich.—Those of us—to the number of over a hundred—who visited Greenwich on the 18th April will remember the occasion for a long time as one of the pleasantest half-holidays we have enjoyed for a long time, and our warmest thanks are due to those who contributed to the enjoyment, especially to Mr. W. E. Barnes, the chief librarian of Greenwich, and his staff, and to Sir F. W. Dyson, the Astronomer Royal, assisted by members of his staff. The weather was delightfully spring-like and the whole of the proceedings were characterized by a pleasing freedom from formality or ceremony.

We were met at, and cordially welcomed to, the famous Observatory by Sir F. W. Dyson, M.A., F.R.S., and conducted

through the various rooms in conveniently sized parties. We shall not soon forget the huge telescopes, the fine astronomical photographs, the chronometers, time recording instruments and what not, the features and objects of each and all of which were clearly explained to us.

At the conclusion of the visit we were taken to the fine old house known as the Ranger's Lodge, where tea was daintily and generously dispensed by the kindness of Mr. Barnes. After tea it was agreed to make the most of the fine weather, and placing ourselves once more under Mr. Barnes' able guidance we were conducted through the most beautiful parts of the very beautiful park.

The evening meeting was held at the Greenwich Central Library, an interesting fact in itself because it has been recently reorganized on modern and open-access lines. We were privileged to examine the various departments, and it was agreed that the Greenwich Libraries Committee, to say nothing of Mr. Barnes and his staff, were to be congratulated upon the success of their new venture in every way.

The chair was taken by Miss Councillor M. Sherman, supported by Mr. Barnes, and Mr. Hubert Ord, M.A., read a most interesting paper on "The Literary Associations of Greenwich." Most of us imagined that such an historic place as Greenwich *would* have literary associations, but probably nobody amongst Mr. Ord's audience realized the extent of them. They extended from the earliest days of our literature down to the present day, and it is a record of which the borough can well afford to be proud. That the audience was keenly interested in all that Mr. Ord told them was evidenced by the rapt attention with which it listened.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Thorne voiced the very best thanks of the meeting to Mr. Barnes for his generous hospitality and for the most enjoyable programme that he had provided. This was seconded by Mr. Gurner P. Jones and carried with acclamation.

Norwich: Branch Library.—The Norwich City Council has decided to convert into a Branch Library the Lazar House (or Magdalen Chapel as it was formerly called), in the northern part of the city, which was presented to the Council by Sir Eustace Gurney in May, 1921. The building is a fine Norman relic, and is contemporary with the Cathedral, having been built by Bishop Herbert de Losinga (the founder of the Cathedral) on ground belonging to the Cathedral Church.

The Proposed London Branch of the Library Association.—We have just received an invitation to attend a meeting in London on the 1st of May in connexion with the projected Branch of the Library Association, and hope that all our colleagues who are members of the Library Association did their best to attend

the awkward hour of 3 p.m. notwithstanding. We hope, too, that the necessary certificate authorising the formation of the Branch will be forthcoming, as, failing that, we are threatened with "a new and independent organization." The establishment of *another* professional Association would be tragic; we have too many already.

YOUR AFFAIRS.

During the past weeks we have received so many interesting newspaper cuttings relating to libraries and librarianship, that we have made a selection of the more important ones for notice here. We believe we are right in saying that libraries are receiving much greater attention to-day than they have ever received before. Not only do local papers give prominence to library news, but the national press also is continually raising discussions on all sorts of matters which go to show that libraries and librarianship have come into their own; their presence in our midst is no longer merely tolerated or apologised for, but they are regarded as ministering seriously to the intellectual life of the nation.

LIBRARY LADIES.

The Westminster Gazette has had one of those interesting but vague little articles on "Library Ladies." A "lucky girl" has just been appointed to a librarianship on board a liner! The work is described as "just the everyday 'library work' of looking after books and magazines, keeping them in order, handing them out to passengers, and so on. Uniform and excellent 'messing' are provided, while the pay is quite good, to say nothing of the opportunities for seeing the world. The liner librarian, needless to say, must be a good sailor, pleasant mannered, and very tactful, besides having the technical qualifications for the job, and at present the openings are distinctly limited."

We haven't so far heard of any rush of candidates for these positions, but the experiment is young.

The objection we have to this kind of article is that librarianship is presented in very glowing colours with the result that all sorts of "bookish" people imagine they can become librarians; consequently the profession is taking in many more people than it can hope to absorb properly. *The Westminster Gazette* indeed says that "librarianship attracts more women every year, and there are many new branches of it which allow scope for initiative and originality." Besides liner libraries, hospital libraries, well-there are many new branches of it which allow scope for initiative libraries, are all instanced.

The Daily News too has had a lengthy article on "Women as Librarians." It regards librarianship as probably the most suitable of all the professions which are open to women, and tells

us that "any woman who has a literary or even artistic bent would make a success of the profession." The need for qualifying by examination is rightly emphasized, and the writer makes the very welcome statement that "there are splendid positions open for women with initiative and organizing ability who will develop the present-day library into something more than a building in which books are stored from which the public choose 'willy nilly.'" We did not realize before that things were *quite* as bad as *The Daily News* would lead us to believe. We are sorry to damp the hopes of our women colleagues, but lower down, after talking of the library becoming a vital part of public life, etc., we are told that "all this seems to point out that there will be a demand for qualified women librarians in the near future." So the "splendid positions" are not open yet.

Apparently too, it is quite easy to get into the profession. In fact, we are told that "there is not a great difficulty in obtaining an entrance to the profession. The successful student has only to take the usual chance of being appointed for a position for which applicants are advertised."

PROGRESS IN IRELAND.

Ireland, the unsettled times notwithstanding, seems to be recognising the value of libraries to adults and to children alike, judging from the number of references we have seen to developments of one kind and another. We have just read a most interesting article of a column's length in *The Belfast Telegraph* on School Libraries, describing their value and the methods adopted for running them. Whether we prefer the children's library to be at the school, or whether we prefer to see the children using their own library, choosing their books in an atmosphere of perfect freedom, we are in agreement with the writer when he says that "it has gradually become recognized that a school without a library lacks an important part of its equipment."

THE QUEEN AND A LIBRARY.

There are few libraries in London doing such a fine work as the National Library for the Blind, and it is encouraging to see that Her Majesty the Queen has so far interested herself in its work as to pay a personal visit to Tufton Street, visiting every floor and every room in the extensive building, and listening with rapt attention to passages read by a small blind girl and by Mr. Bulman Smith. Do even *our* readers, who ought to know, realize that the National Library has 80,000 volumes, representing 8,000 works, and that no fewer than 500 volumes are issued by post every day? Has your library sent a grant towards its work?

THE PERSONAL TOUCH.

If all librarians would only get into personal touch with their local societies and talk to them in such an interesting way about

their libraries as we see Mr. Nowell has been talking to the W.E.A. at Coventry, the library movement would be still further advanced than it is. The address is a model of what such addresses ought to be. There are no lengthy figures or statistical returns; it is simply a plain statement of what the libraries stand for in all their varied activities.

MANCHESTER'S DINGY SHEDS.

Manchester is still agitating for its new Reference library, a building worthy of the second city of the Empire instead of the present "long line of dingy sheds" which is all that it can boast at present. *The Manchester Guardian* has been ventilating the question, and if all that it says with regard to the state of the stock is true, it is a disgrace to a third-rate borough, leave alone to a wealthy and important city like Manchester. We hope that *this time* the authorities will settle the question once and for all, before further damage occurs to the valuable stock as a result of the present conditions in which it is stored.

BIRMINGHAM FOLLOWS.

Following the example of Manchester, Birmingham is now to have its Technical library, which is to supplement the Commercial library opened some four years ago. The newspaper room has been curtailed and rearranged, and the space thus set free will provide space for 50 readers and for a library of five or six thousand volumes.

THIS FREEDOM.

It is strange how time changes our views of things. Not so many years ago those who were bold enough to do it at all, introduced open access into their libraries with much explanation, some apology perhaps, and certainly with emphatic assurances that it was "safeguarded." Now, however, we find librarians even discussing the question of dispensing with locking wicket devices altogether. The Richmond Library Committee has just had a battle royal on the question of open access, and we congratulate Professor Loney on his persistence. The librarian and his committee appear to be unanimous in their desire for the system, but apparently they don't want to spend any money on providing it! We hope that Professor Loney will, as he says he will, raise the question again in the autumn, and "keep on the Council till the library is properly used." One member of the committee said that "he was tired of hearing about the matter." We hope he will hear more later.

Portsmouth is another of the remaining large towns without open access in its main building, but we congratulate Mr. Hutt and his committee on the fact that after repeated efforts they are to have it at last, unless "the proposal for the conversion of the

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF ST. MARYLEBONE. APPOINTMENT OF LIBRARIAN.

The Council of the Metropolitan Borough of St. Marylebone invite applications for the position of Librarian (male) from candidates who have had not less than five years' practical experience in a Public Library wherein a recognised system of classification is in use.

Candidates must, in addition, possess either four Certificates of the Library Association, or the Diploma in Librarianship of the University of London.

The commencing salary will be at the rate of £400 per annum inclusive (no bonus payable), rising (subject to approved service) by annual increments of £25 to a maximum at the rate of £500 per annum inclusive.

Candidates must be under 40 years of age (but an allowance may be made for military service during the war) and will be required to pass an examination by the Council's Medical Adviser. The appointment will be subject to the provisions of the St. Marylebone Borough Council (Superannuation) Acts, 1908 and 1922, and to the resolutions of the Council relating to officers.

The Librarian appointed must be prepared to take up duty at the expiration of one month to organise the new Public Library, which is being established temporarily at the Town Hall, Marylebone Road, N.W.1.

Applications (in own handwriting), together with copies of not more than three recent testimonials, which will not be returned, must be delivered to the undersigned in envelopes endorsed " Librarian " not later than 19th May, 1923.

Canvassing will disqualify any candidate.

By Order,

Town Hall,
Marylebone Road, N.W.1.
1923.

JAMES WILSON,
Town Clerk.

indicator system into the more up-to-date system at the Central is lost in the pigeon holes of the Corporation offices " !

BATH.

The agitation for a lending library at Bath continues, and we believe that it will not be long before that important city loses the distinction of being one of the few not possessing a complete establishment for the supply of books and other reading matter. The usual absurd but amusing arguments are put forward against the proposal. A man says that because he can buy a Milton for threepence there is no need for a public library. But he can also buy a box of swan vestas for three-halfpence. Would he on this score suggest that the Corporation shouldn't waste its money on electric light ! Another says that " there are ways and means of obtaining all the desired intelligence the few like myself are clamouring for." The few ! We had formed a better opinion of Bath's citizens than this.

COUNTY CAMPAIGNS.

Whatever may be said against some rural library systems it is apparent that Middlesex has a live one, judging from the amount of campaigning its librarian has done, and the amount of press publicity he has got. An enthusiastic meeting was held at Harrow the other day, when it was resolved that the town should participate in the scheme. Mr. Wright also appears to be working to secure a very desirable co-operation between the public libraries already existing in the county, none of them particularly large in themselves, but making in the aggregate a very real and useable collection of books.

EXETER AND ITS LIBRARY.

We had always regarded Exeter as an important and progressive city, but apparently our opinion needs revising, judging from the press report before us on the debate on the estimates for the year. Out of a total expenditure of £2,825, only £300 is to be spent on new books. In defence of this one gentleman urged the astounding apology that " if we begin to buy more books there will be no room for them." Against this the librarian spoke of " the greater use being made of the library." Another gentleman apparently saw a red light and thought that more might be spent on new books without adding to the staff.

The Librarian agreed that it could be done without adding to it immediately, but if they made the library more popular, the cost of administration would be larger. Recently there was added to the lending library a quantity of second-hand fiction, and immediately the charges went up. As often as they did that, they would increase their maintenance charges. It was a question of

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wear and tear. If the Council felt inclined to supply the necessary funds, the issue of books from the lending library could probably be doubled.

We were particularly astonished to read that the librarian had to explain that owing to limited funds three or four years had to elapse before new books could be added to the Library. On the present income they could not possibly be purchased until they could be obtained cheaply. In fact, they purchased very few new books except technical works. For biographies, books of reminiscence and travel, or novels, they depended almost entirely on donations.

The Mayor thought their lending library needed to be built up rather differently than it had been in the past. He suggested that the Library Committee should give the matter consideration.

THE EASTER EXCURSION.

The Easter excursion to Paris organised by the Library Association and ourselves was a distinct success in every way. The weather was ideal for sightseeing, our headquarters were central, and the company was delightful. Forty-two people took part, and as we numbered amongst us natives of France, Belgium, Egypt and Holland, the excursion might be almost regarded as international.

The main party left Victoria on Thursday evening, the 29th March, and travelled to Paris by the short sea route. The journey was attended by none of those ill consequences sometimes attaching to sea passages, and Paris was reached safely on Good Friday morning. After a slight hitch in connection with the hotel arrangements things moved along smoothly. The morning was spent in a brief walk around the hotel district, the principal place of interest visited being the house of Victor Hugo in the Place des Vosges. After lunch some of the party visited the Louvre, while those of a more adventurous spirit set out to ascend the Eiffel Tower, to see all Paris at a glance. After dinner small parties made their way to the Boulevards, where they regaled themselves with coffee—and in some cases with stronger stimulants.

Saturday was set aside for visiting the three great libraries of Paris, and 9 a.m. found us at the Bibliothèque Nationale, where we were graciously received by M. Morel and members of his staff. In a delightful little speech M. Morel bade us welcome, after which we were conducted through the *salle de travail*, the fine Mazarin gallery, the miles of stack-rooms, into the new reading-room in course of erection. The mere sight of these millions of books was in itself an inspiring sight not easily to be forgotten, to say nothing of the rich and rare treasures which we were privileged to feast our eyes upon. Here was the Mazarin Bible printed by

the great Gutenberg about 1456; close by was Fust and Schöffer's Psalter of 1462. Here were gorgeously-bound books from the libraries of Marie Antoinette and other members of the royal family of France.

We shall not soon forget M. Morel's delightful little speech, in which he referred to our previous visit in 1912 and to the events that had taken place since that time. Very touching was his reference to members of his staff who helped him on that occasion, but who would not be able to do so on the present one, and to those of our own colleagues who visited the Library in 1912 and came back to defend it a few years later, never to return home. It was owing to them, said M. Morel, that we to-day should find the National Library of France "untouched and safe."

After lunch we made our way to the Arsenal Library, which ranks next to the Nationale in size, and is particularly rich in pure literature, especially drama. M. Brentano conducted us through the galleries, showed us the archives of the Bastille, allowed us to handle exquisite and unique books, took us into the room of Charles Nodier, and made our visit extremely interesting in every possible way.

From here we journeyed to the Bibliotheque St. Geneviève, a fine library similar in some respects to our Guildhall Library because it is open free to all comers without formality. It is open too until quite late at night, is almost entirely a reference library of course, and has a fine selection of current periodicals. M. Mortet kindly explained to us the scope and functions of the library, the scope, etc., of its catalogues, and conducted us round.

Three libraries in a day was somewhat of an ordeal, and in the circumstances the recreation which some of us sought in the evening may be excused.

Sunday morning was given up by most of us to visiting the churches, especially Notre Dame and La Madeleine, but a few preferred the open-air and took a promenade in the Bois de Boulogne.

After lunch, with scarcely any exceptions, we journeyed by train and taxi to Versailles, and enjoyed to the full the scenery en route, the glories of the galleries and the beauties of the grounds. All Paris was there to meet us, but we returned home safely and without any of the exciting adventures which we associate with a previous visit. The evening was spent on the Boulevards or promenading.

Monday, our last day, came round all too soon, and it was left free for each to do as he liked. Some climbed the towers of Notre Dame, others ascended the Arc de Triomphe, others taxied across Paris, but everyone enjoyed himself to the full.

We had become so attached to the gay life of the city that at dinner on Monday it became apparent that only half of us were going home; the rest were staying on just as long as they dared!

It is impossible to speak too highly of the services rendered to us by Mlle. Claire Huchet. She acted as our guide, interpreter and friend; nothing was too much trouble for her, and not a little of the success of the excursion is due to her help and interest. As a small token of appreciation we asked her to accept a leather note-case with the expression of our best thanks and warmest wishes for her work in the new Children's Library, of which she is to be the librarian.

The whole excursion was carried out in the same spirit of fellowship as the earlier ones in pre-war days. We met as strangers with divers interests in many cases, but we parted as friends who had at least one common bond, a love of books.

It is proposed next Easter to go to Holland, and although it is very early yet, we shall be glad to hear from those who might care to join the party.

THE DIVISIONS.

NORTH-EAST DIVISION.

Arrangements are being made to hold the Annual Excursion on Wednesday, June 6th. After last year's successful outing it was the general wish that a similar one should be made a yearly event. Durham has again been chosen, partly for geographical and partly for financial reasons. Another year may find travelling costs cheaper, and then it would be possible to select other places which are at present too expensive to be reached by the majority of the members.

It is possible to make a complete change from last year's programme by including the Chapter Library, the Castle, and Finchale Priory. If possible, visits to these places will be arranged. The full programme will be sent out later.

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

VISIT TO STONYHURST COLLEGE,

June 6th, 1923.

By kind consent of the Rector, a permit has been granted for a party (which must not exceed 50 in number) to visit *Stonyhurst College*, nr. Blackburn, on *Wednesday, June 6th, from 2.30 to 4 p.m.*

The College was originally founded at St. Omer (France) in 1592, but was suppressed by the Bourbons in 1762. After a brief stay at Bruges until 1772 and at Liege until 1794, the 18 Jesuit fathers were offered a resting place at Stonyhurst.

The College contains many items of exceptional interest. Among these may be mentioned the Relics, the Church plate, and Vestments (including Henry VII.'s Vestments, the Red High Mass Vestment—which derives especial interest from the tradition that it was worked by Queen Catharine of Arragon—the Wintour Vestments, and many others). In addition, the College contains MSS. of tremendous interest and value. Of these the most interesting and valuable is a Latin MS. of the Gospel of St. John, belonging to the 7th century, perfect and complete, a marvellous example of the penmanship of the Gaelic monks: it

is written on vellum in uncials, without division into chapters and verses, or points of any kind. The MS. was found in the tomb of St. Cuthbert in 1105. Among other notable MSS. the following must be mentioned:—Froissart's Chronicles (one volume: a beautiful folio of the 15th century—the second volume being in the British Museum), Missal of the Cistercian Order (14th century), and Horæ B. M. Virginis, Psalmi Paenitentiales, Officium Defunctorum (formerly the property of Elizabeth of York, Queen of Henry VII.). Of the printed books none is more interesting than the "Horæ" of Mary, Queen of Scots, a 16mo. volume printed at Lyons in 1558: the tradition suggests that the book was carried by Queen Mary Stuart to the scaffold, and by her given to her Confessor. The Library also contains some 250 Incunabula, 50 Aldines, more than 100 printed liturgical books of the 15th and 16th centuries, and the same number of English books printed in the same period. There is a single page of Caxton's "Encyclos," and of Wynkyn de Worde there are many examples. Lastly must be mentioned a first folio of Shakespeare.

In addition to the matters enumerated above, there are many other objects of extraordinary interest to be seen. Owing to the fact that the visit is being paid in term time, *the party must be strictly limited to 50*. All applications to visit the College will be registered in order of receipt, but *up to May 15th only the names of Association members will be definitely recorded*: after the date mentioned, any remaining vacancies in the party will be allocated to non-members.

Fuller particulars regarding manner of reaching the College, the provision of tea, etc., will be issued later.

EDWIN C. WICKENS,
Hon. Secretary.

Reference Library,
Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH—SOCIAL SECTION.

A party of forty-two members and friends witnessed Arnold Bennett's play, "The Great Adventure," at the Playhouse, Liverpool, on Monday evening, the 28th March, and all seemed to have enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

The next Theatre Party will be on Wednesday, 9th May; the Playhouse, Liverpool—it is anticipated that Oscar Wilde's play, "The importance of being earnest," will be shown.

The second Whist Drive, which was held on Friday evening, the 20th April, at Messrs. Roberts' Cafe, Liverpool, proved a great success. Eighty people were present and each one added a share to the spirit of happiness which was abroad the whole evening. There was no stiffness, no formality, and all too soon the time had flown. Mr. B. A. Hopson, the M.C., performed his duties in a very delightful manner, and announced prizes to various fortunate players during the course of the Drive. And we congratulate the eight persons who were lucky enough to win the beautiful prizes at the conclusion of the games.

O. N. ROTHWELL, Hon. Secretary.

YORKSHIRE DIVISION.

The Inaugural Meeting of the Session was held at the Mechanics' Institute, Bradford, on Wednesday, 14th March, by kind permission of the Institute's Council. There was a good attendance of members, Mr. Butterfield (Bradford) occupying the chair. The newly elected president, Mr. H. Goulden, Deputy

Librarian, Huddersfield, delivered his presidential address on "Our association, our libraries, ourselves," and a discussion followed by Miss Hummerston, and Messrs. Denton, Procter, Strother, Butterfield, and Parsons. Mr. Goulden was warmly congratulated on his paper.

Following the meeting, members were entertained to tea by the staff of the Bradford Public Libraries in a manner well in keeping with their traditional hospitality. At the evening meeting the question of the "Registration of professional librarians" was discussed after an opening by Mr. G. W. Strother (Leeds). Speeches were frantic, free and to the point, with the result that members had the question placed before them from many points of view, and only time ended the discussion. Votes of thanks to the Council of the Institute and to the staff of the Bradford public libraries terminated a very successful meeting.

N. T.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION.

Members are asked to forward to the Honorary Secretary of the Division, Ernest Male, Public Library, Brighton, by June 1st, nominations for Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, and Committee for the ensuing year.

APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES.

*T. H. ASTON, Wolverhampton, to be librarian, Bilston.

*G. V. R. HAYWARD, first assistant librarian, Portsmouth, to be deputy librarian, Norwich.

*T. W. MUSKETT (Bethnal Green) has been promoted second assistant, *P. Meacham third assistant, *R. Blackman (Watford) assistant (salary £208), and Mr. Marcus junior assistant (salary £60 plus Civil Service bonus).

J. E. PERCIVAL, Bilston, to be librarian, Southall Norwood.

*F. A. RICHARDS, Bethnal Green, to be first assistant librarian, Portsmouth. Salary £200 inclusive.

*D. S. YOUNG, sub-librarian, Chelsea, to be librarian, Minet Library, Camberwell. Salary £300 (inclusive) and house.

Selected: Messrs. *Sinclair (St. Pancras), *Jenn (Lambeth), *Twort (Fulham), and *Bridge (Battersea).

* Member, A.A.L.

NEW BOOKS.

Amongst the books of general interest received by us lately are the following:—

CLARKE, W. G. *Our Homeland Prehistoric Antiquities, and How to Study Them.* 139 pp. *Illus.* 5½ in. by 3¼ in. 1922. (Homeland Association). Cloth. 4s. 6d. net.

A most useful introductory book for beginners interested in archaeology. The language is simple, the illustrations are good, and there is a useful glossary and a bibliography. The Homeland Association has done much valuable work for many years, and their publications are always such as any library can buy with assurance. The present book proves no exception to the rule.

BRIDGE, F. M. Princes of Wales. 12 + 355 pp. *Illus. Por.*
8 in. x 4½ in. 1922. (Deane). Cloth. 8s. 6d. net.

The first book of its kind written in a popular manner. It traces the history of the principality from its inauguration down to the present time. There are brief accounts of the lives and accomplishments of the various holders of the title, and altogether the book is a most readable one which should find a wide circle of readers amongst the general public.

WILLIAMS, R. G., and MEREDITH, MARK (Editors). *The Librarian's Guide*, 1923. 136 pp., 1914. Cloth. (*Literary Year Book Press.*) 10s. 6d. net.

The publication of this volume fills a long-felt want, no proper library year book having appeared since 1914. The bulk of the work consists of full statistical and other particulars of the libraries of the United Kingdom based on returns received from a questionnaire sent out a few months ago. We have tested the entries, and in no case—except in the spelling of our own name—have we found them wanting. The volume also contains short articles on Libraries and their Functions, by John Ballinger; Nationalisation of Public Libraries, by Archibald Sparke; Book Selection for Public Libraries, by E. A. Baker; and the County Library Movement, by Duncan Gray. A useful innovation is a series of aids to assistants, comprising short reading courses on library classification, library organisation, legislation, etc., with test papers and questions. Other branches of library science will be dealt with in succeeding issues of the Guide. It is gratifying to find half a page devoted to the A.A.L., but we confess that we are surprised to find no particulars of the L.A., and can only conclude that the body must be numbered amongst those who have taken up an "apathetic attitude." At the end is an extensive list of fictitious and pseudonymous names, and a select addressing list.

The Central Library for Students, which is perhaps the most important adjunct of the public library in existence, is omitted, as is a list of county library systems. These are important omissions which should be included in a future edition.

NEW MEMBERS.

Associate: Florence M. Smith (Islington).

N.W. Division: Edith M. Todd. Associates: Reginald Bioletti, James A. Carr (all of Liverpool).

CORRESPONDENCE

RICHMOND (SURREY) PUBLIC LIBRARY.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Library Assistant*.

5th April, 1923.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Douglas Sladen, the well-known author and traveller, who has recently presented his entire library of over 10,000 volumes to the Richmond Public Library, has placed in my hands a number of copies of some of his works for presentation to libraries. They are mostly his poetical works.

Librarians desiring to have copies of all or any of these volumes should make application to the undersigned. Applications will be dealt with in rotation, and the books despatched by Carter Paterson, carriage forward.

If additional copies would be acceptable for branch libraries this fact should be stated.

The volumes for disposal are :—

Australian Lyrics. Melbourne, 1883.

Australian Lyrics. 2nd ed. London, 1885.

Edward the Black Prince. 1886.

In Cornwall and across the sea. London, 1885.

The Green book of London Society. London, 1910.

Lester the loyalist. Tokio, 1890.

London and its leaders. London, 1902.

Poetry of exiles and other poems. Sydney, 1883.

Poetry of exiles and other poems, 2nd ed. London, 1885.

A Summer Christmas. London, 1884.

Yours faithfully,

A. CECIL PIPER,
Librarian and Secretary.

•“ OUR ASSOCIATION, OUR LIBRARIES, OURSELVES.”

By HORACE GOULDEN, F.L.A., Huddersfield Public Libraries.

During the years that I have been connected with the Association of Assistant Librarians I have always felt a pride in my membership, and a pleasure in the fellowship of my colleagues.

We have met in general meetings, in committees, and in social functions, and the help that I have received by being privileged to meet with you I very much value.

Particularly during my early membership I felt that work on the lines of our programme was the best means of stimulating in an assistant that effort—that aspiration—which in the end would entitle him to the name of Librarian.

From amongst the members you have elected me as the President of your Division. I feel highly honoured indeed to be the person chosen to fill the position, and in thanking you for the distinction, I assure you that it will be my earnest endeavour to carry on the work so ably championed in the past by my enthusiastic predecessors.

Viewing that adjunct of the office—the Presidential address—I began a sort of mental rumination, and must confess, commenced to harbour some little anxiety as to its execution.

However, looking around in my mind, Emerson's words,
“Time dissipates to shining ether the solid angularity of facts,”

occurred to me. In the words I saw hope, and so I allowed time to take hold for a period and subsequently there dawned upon me the idea that a president is a privileged person with a wide range of topics before him, who can even go to “outside” topics so long as they illustrate his points.

So I speak to you with a very great feeling of freedom.

I have something of what I should imagine is the feeling of the connoisseur. I can look at this and pass on; I can pick this up, pass a few remarks, and put it down; I can take this to my

* Read at Bradford Mechanics' Institute, Wednesday, 14th March, 1923.

heart, examine, judge, enthuse upon it, and say to you—that's my opinion, think about it.

Professor Leacock, in an address which this Association was privileged to hear, made a special point of telling his audience at the outset the subject of his address so as to prevent anyone going away without knowing.

Taking a hint from the professor, I announce my topic as "Our Association—Our Libraries—Ourselves."

We may be described as an Association of professional librarians (other than chiefs) who meet together to discuss matters of professional interest, and for operating collectively in any direction calculated to benefit library conditions and librarianship generally.

You will notice that I use the designation *professional* librarians, not amateurs, and the difference is obvious. A person working in our public libraries cannot be allowed to be an amateur. Every amateur's service that we entertain and allow to remain in that state, may tend to become a load upon the wheels of our progress, a hindrance to our full development, a menace to our good name, being a weak link in what otherwise would be a strong chain.

We operate collectively: such action is not illogical, for throughout all life co-operation in varying degrees is seen.

It should not be thought that individual effort is thus belittled: individual effort is extremely necessary, for without it collective action would hardly be possible.

The discussions which take place in our meetings have a cumulative helping effect, besides being of benefit to us individually. The readers of our papers are our benefactors, they give us of their best, they open up channels for thought, excite our ideas, and are, in fact, the sparks that kindle the flame which is the true life of our deliberations. I think sometimes that this fact is not fully appreciated.

Those of you who have contributed to our programmes must feel full well that you by that contribution have benefited equally, if not even more so, with the Association. To give a paper, or to take some other active part, should be the aim of every member.

Start, if you will, by contributing to discussions, and later, you may surprise yourself by giving a paper without being invited to do so, and without the fear which perhaps you have previously anticipated. If everyone would take this message to heart our meetings would have the electrical air of a revival, and eventually we should become *super-optimists*.

We often meet with the person who says, "mind your own business and I'll mind mine." We have these people on our library staffs; they don't join the Association because, as they say, they have some personal reason. My answer is, that they

should have a *very* personal reason for belonging; because an association can watch personal interests *very* well, and I ask you to approach these members, and give them an invitation to swell our ranks.

It will be as well to reiterate that ours is the only wholly professional association in existence in this country. The Library Association is different in constitution and thus *may* evolve results not entirely to an assistant's good. It is here, if we develop and keep strong, that the individual's business can very well be "*minded*" by others.

Although the Library Association is senior to ours in years, to say nothing of the seniority of its components, ours could be, and should be, the more virile of the two.

You do not need reminding that assistants of any grade are eligible for membership, so that from the junior (who should be striving to be a senior), to the senior (who should be striving to be a chief), we should be a body of library workers equipping themselves, and fighting for, the welfare of librarianship.

It must be obvious to the thinking mind that if our Association could have the membership of *all* assistant librarians, its propelling influence would be such that assistants would be looked upon, not merely as so many juniors, so many seniors, etc., but as being the "*live wire*" of the library world, and the key to that important problem, an *efficient library service*.

Our libraries offer to the public a great wealth of information. All that is best, all that is reliable, that which possesses the hall mark of the test of time, is, by efficient librarianship, collected and arranged for the greatest of pupils—the *public*.

Life is the great teacher; and in accepting this as an axiom, we must view the school as an institution where one's education is only *commenced*. Was it not Seneca who wrote:

"We learn not in the school but in life"?

Following the school—elementary and secondary—and as an adjunct to the many other educational institutions, the public library offers facilities peculiar to itself, in so far that it alone sets out to, and can generally meet, the needs of *all classes*.

An institution upon which such a demand is made has a tremendous task before it—its organisation must be thorough—revision and constant revision of its stock is absolutely essential. Further, the service of its assistants must be of a high state of efficiency, for if this is half-hearted or poor, the library will become a multitude of books whose value is not known through want of selection and arrangement, thus failing to give the reader his or her opportunities through lack of efficient guidance.

To be continued.